

## FACT SHEET

### IMPERIAL IRRIGATION WATER ORDER

1. In 1979 the Supreme Court issued a Supplemental Decree in *Arizona v. California* establishing quantities of water available to present perfected water right holders in the Lower Colorado River Basin. Present perfected water rights in the Lower Colorado River Basin are those rights that were appropriated under state law prior to the passage of the Boulder Canyon Project Act in 1928. These rights have priority in times of shortage over other entitlements established through contracts with the Secretary of the Interior.

2. The Supplemental Decree established Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) presented perfected right to be annually diverted from the mainstream of 2.6 million acre-feet for irrigation, or the quantity of water required for consumptive use for irrigation of 424,145 acres, whichever is less. This amount represents a water duty of 6.13 acre-feet per acre.

3. The present perfected water right decreed in 1979 was submitted to the court by IID, and was based on IID's actual use of water prior to 1929. Crops and farming practices in IID prior to 1929, including the practice of double cropping, were similar to those that exist today. Western irrigation technology and efficiency have significantly improved since that time.

4. IID's 2003 water order request, if approved, would have provided a consumptive use water duty of 6.42 acre-feet per acre. This amount is approximately 5% more than the maximum amount that would be allowed using the water duty decreed for IID's present perfected right. With one minor exception, no other present perfected right holder in the Lower Colorado River Basin consumptively uses more water per acre than would be allowed under their presented perfected right.

5. In comparison, the 2003 water order for the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) results in a consumptive use water duty of 5.59 acre-feet per acre. While CVWD does not have a present perfected right, it was part of the IID prior to 1929 and has similar climate with more intensive cropping practices.

6. IID's water use from 1982 to 1987 averaged 5.87 acre-feet per acre. During this time IID was under pressure from the California State Water Resources Control Board to implement improved water management practices. Cropping patterns during that time appear similar to those that exist today.

7. As part of a water conservation and transfer program with Metropolitan Water District, IID has implemented over \$180 million in water delivery efficiency programs since 1988. This action has allowed the conservation of approximately 104,000 acre-feet of water and further reduce water use by IID by approximately .2 acre-feet per acre. This reduction was reflected in the calculation of IID's water order.

8. In the absence of a signed Quantification Settlement Agreement, the Secretary of the Interior is approving a 2003 water diversion for IID of 2,858,900 acre-feet. This amount is consistent with the provisions of the 1979 Supplemental Decree, reflecting the a consumptive water use of 6.13 acre-feet per acre.